



**OHIO CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 10, 2025

**CONTACT:**

Amanda Ehrmantraut

Press Secretary

567-203-8868

[aehrmantraut@ohiochamber.com](mailto:aehrmantraut@ohiochamber.com)

## **Ohio Chamber of Commerce Elects New Members to Board of Directors**

*COLUMBUS, OHIO* – At its two board meetings held on May 28 and September 10, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors elected a total of 17 new members.

The Board is excited to welcome its new members, each bringing different perspectives and valuable contributions through their experience and leadership.

- Jeff Holliday, Arnold Ventures – Director of Advocacy
- Ryan Hecht, BDO – Assurance Practice Leader
- Eric Poklar, Buckeye Health – Senior Vice President of Government and External Affairs and Marketing
- Matthew Stamp, GBQ Partners – State and Local Tax Servicing
- Drew Cooper, JobsOhio – Director of Government Affairs and External Engagement
- Alison Marker, Marker, Inc. – Leader
- Elizabeth Kunzelman, Petland – Vice President of Legislative Affairs and Marketing
- Brian Ellis, Sarnova, Inc. – Chief Operating Officer
- Matt Baker, Superior Group – Vice President of Corporate Affairs
- Gabe Castro, Vistra Corporation – Senior Vice President of Business Markets
- Dr. Stan Bovid, HighComm – Director of Engineering Development
- Dr. Susan S. Hasseler, Muskingum University – President
- Matt Riehl, JumpStart Inc. – Head of Government Relations
- Sue A. Roudebush, Taft Law – Employment Law Representative
- Scott Schweitzer, The Strategy Group Company – Chief Operations Officer
- Jesse Styles, Northstar Towers – Founder
- Conrad Winkler – North Star BlueScope Steel – President

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate and represents thousands of companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

###

**MAY 2025**  
**OHIO CHAMBER NEW BOARD MEMBERS**



**JEFF HOLLIDAY**  
**ARNOLD VENTURES**

As Director of Advocacy at Arnold Ventures, Jeff oversees policy development, grantmaking, advocacy, and engagement with key federal and state level policymakers, civic and trade associations, NGO's and other external stakeholders on AV's Infrastructure and Clean Energy portfolios. Jeff previously held the role of Director of External Affairs and Director of Policy where he worked to build AV's relationships within state and national governmental associations. Prior to he also served as Advocacy Manager on AV's Advocacy and Healthcare team overseeing state partner work on Healthcare Cost Containment issues including, Prescription Drug Affordability Reform, Surprise Medical Billing, Public Option, and Hospital Cost Transparency.

Jeff joined the philanthropy with more than 14 years of experience in public policy, government relations, advocacy, and public affairs at the local, state, and federal levels. Previously, he worked in the freight railroad and oil and gas petrochemical industries, where he managed and directed legislative and stakeholder priorities on a wide array of industry initiatives. Prior to, he was a constituent caseworker for U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, focusing on transportation, natural resources, Department of Defense, and Veterans Affairs issues. He has also worked for U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson and U.S. Congressman Max Sandlin.

Jeff holds a bachelor's in political science and history from the University of Arkansas Fayetteville.



**RYAN HECHT**  
**BDO**

As Assurance Practice Leader, Ryan is responsible for the strategy and operations of BDO's assurance practice in Columbus.

As an assurance Principal at BDO since 2017, Ryan has extensive experience serving the complex and strategic audit needs of multinational organizations in a variety of industries. He serves both public companies and private companies that are growing and scaling complexities including private equity owned portfolio companies and IPO or SPAC pathing companies. His global experience includes leading group audits for US based companies along with completing component audits for overseas based companies both public and private.

Outside of his role at BDO, Ryan has been part of various community organizations including roles on the Board of Directors of Children's Hunger Alliance, HandsOn Central Ohio and the State of Ohio Audit Committee.



**ERIC POKLAR**  
**BUCKEYE HEALTH**

For more than 30 years, Eric Poklar has been trusted by two Ohio governors and other high-level public- and private-sector clients to create and implement communications, marketing and legislative strategies

to accomplish their priorities. Eric currently serves as the senior vice president of government and external affairs and marketing for Buckeye Health Plan, a state-licensed managed care organization and a subsidiary of Centene Corporation that provides health-care services to Ohio residents who are eligible for Medicaid, Medicare and the Health Insurance Marketplace. Previously, Eric served as the director of legislative affairs for Governor John R. Kasich, where he was responsible for overseeing and managing the governor's legislative agenda and coordinating the legislative operations of executive-level staff at 28 cabinet agencies. Eric developed and executed the strategy that led to legislative approval in 2013 for extending health-care coverage to more than 700,000 previously uninsured Ohioans. He also led the legislative efforts to pass Governor Kasich's \$140 billion budget package for fiscal years 2016-2017 and a two-year, \$2.4 billion state capital budget. Eric also served as the director of legislative affairs and communications for the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, in which he developed and managed legislative and communications strategies in support of the state's successful initiative to reform Ohio's health and human services programs, improving health care and saving Ohio taxpayers more than \$3 billion over three years. From 2008- 2011, Eric operated his own firm – Poklar Public Policy and Communications – through which he provided government affairs, marketing and communications services for a diverse portfolio of clients, including NASA (through a third-party contract with Fuentek, LLC), Battelle, an education consortium dedicated to expanding STEM education opportunities for students and businesses, a national education consulting firm and other clients. Eric served as the chief aide to a state senator, as the director of legislative affairs for Governor Bob Taft and as the director of legislative affairs for the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Eric was appointed to the Ohio State Board of Education in 2017, a position he held until 2021.



**MATTHEW STAMP**  
**GBQ PARTNERS**

Matt has over 20 years of experience in state and local tax servicing clients in the manufacturing, contracting, retail, financial, hospitality and service industries. Matt has significant experience managing state and local tax compliance issues, performing tax technical research, assisting clients with transactional analysis and tax controversy. His practice focuses primarily on multistate sales/use taxes, income and franchise taxes, tax credits and economic development opportunities. Matt also has experience assisting clients with municipal income tax and real and personal property tax matters. Prior to joining GBQ in 2007, Matt was a Senior Manager with Ernst & Young LLP's State and Local Tax Group in Cleveland, Ohio. He was also a Manager with Deloitte & Touche LLP's Multistate Tax Services Group in Columbus, Ohio.

Matt has lectured on state and local tax topics for the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants (OSCPA), American Subcontractors of Ohio (ASA), Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA – Central Ohio Chapter), Tax Executives Institute (TEI), Lorman Educational Services and Strafford.



**DREW COOPER**  
**JOBSOHIO**

Drew Cooper is the Director of Government Affairs and External Engagement at JobsOhio, a position responsible for leading engagement, outreach, and collaboration with government officials and other key economic development stakeholders.

Before joining JobsOhio, Drew spent nearly six years serving in various roles in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Drew is a proud alumnus of The Ohio State University, and currently resides in downtown Columbus with his wife Nikki, and twin boys Lincoln and Matthew who were born in October 2023.



**ALISON MARKER**  
**MARKER, INC**

Known for being thoughtful, compassionate, and committed to the organization, clients, and the community, Alison provides vision and steady leadership for Marker Construction, a full-service, women-owned, commercial construction firm with offices in Columbus and Bellefontaine. After spending 10 years in the mental health industry, she left her career as a private practice psychotherapist to join the construction firm in 2012. Her background in working with people on their own growth and development provided a strong foundation and perspective for the organization's focus on recruiting and development during a time of growth and expansion into the central Ohio market. With her strong drive and eagerness to provide equitable opportunities for others to grow, succeed, and achieve their goals, Alison has advanced through the organization and become a proven leader. A third-generation family member, Alison carries on the values and ethics that Marker has been known for throughout their 68 years of business.

Alison's education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies from Miami University, a Master of Clinical Social Work degree from The Ohio State University, MBA courses at Capital University, as well as various executive leadership courses and programs. Married with three children, Alison and her busy family reside in Clintonville. Alison is active in community volunteerism and philanthropy and has volunteered her time in numerous organizations, including the Builders Exchange of Central Ohio, Associated Builders and Contractors, Urban Land Institute, Community Shelter Board, the United Way of Logan County, Huckleberry House, and United Schools.



**ELIZABETH KUNZELMAN  
PETLAND**

Elizabeth Kunzelman is a seasoned legislative affairs and communications executive with extensive experience in public relations, advocacy, and strategic communications. Currently serving as Vice President of Legislative Affairs & Marketing at Petland, Inc., she leads nationwide advocacy strategies, manages communications efforts, and oversees marketing initiatives. With a background in journalism and public relations, she has held leadership roles in legislative advocacy, crisis communication, and corporate social responsibility. She is actively involved in industry organizations and has received recognition for her contributions to pet industry advocacy.



**BRIAN ELLIS**  
**SARNOVA, INC.**

Brian is responsible for the warehouse operations function that supports Sarnova's portfolio of businesses as well as the kitting, purchasing, and customer care functions that support the Bound Tree Medical, Tri-anim Health Services, and Cardio Partners businesses.

Brian joined Sarnova in 2020, and prior to being named Chief Operating Officer, was Senior Vice President and General Manager of Innovative Delivery Solutions at Cardinal Health. Brian spent 22 years with Cardinal Health in various finance, operations, sourcing, commercial, and general management roles supporting both medical product and pharmaceutical distribution, services, and solutions.

Brian has his Bachelor of Science in Accounting Degree from Southern Nazarene University and is a Certified Public Accountant.



**MATT BAKER**  
**SUPERIOR GROUP**

Matt Baker serves as Vice President of Corporate Affairs for Superior, an electrical construction firm that builds data centers, healthcare facilities, schools, airports, and other projects across Ohio and beyond.

He previously led executive communications for Equifax (NYSE: EFX) in the aftermath of one of the most consequential data breaches in history. He also led corporate communications for Inspire Brands, the second-largest restaurant company in the United States.

Matt worked for three leading public relations firms – Edelman, Ogilvy, and Podesta Group – where he managed corporate and public affairs initiatives for Porsche, DuPont, LG, MetLife, and LVMH, as well as foreign governments throughout the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and the Asia-Pacific.



**GABE CASTRO**  
**VISTRA CORP.**

Gabe Castro is a strategic-minded, results-oriented leader and the Senior Vice President of Business Markets at Vistra Corporation, one of the largest and most innovative retail electric providers in the United States. Based in Irving, Texas, Vistra is an integrated power company that combines a customer-centric approach to retail with a strong commitment to safe, reliable, and efficient power generation. Vistra's retail business serves more than 5 million customers across Texas and the Midwest.

In his current role, Castro leads one of the largest retail electric business units in the country, with responsibility for energy sales across all lines of business through both direct and indirect channels. He also oversees the company's retail gas sales team, and has responsibility for product development, demand side management solutions, analytics, sales support, customer service, and deal structuring. A proven leader with a deep understanding of the energy industry, Castro is known for driving performance, growth, and innovation in complex, competitive markets.

Throughout his career, Castro has taken on an ever-increasing set of responsibilities, consistently earning leadership roles that span the full spectrum of the business. Previously, he served as Vice President of Business Markets at TXU Energy, Vistra's flagship retail brand and the leading competitive electricity provider in Texas. Since joining TXU Energy in 1994, Castro has held critical roles across the organization—including natural gas transportation, natural gas marketing, strategy for the dynamic Texas power market, and lead business development efforts in Mexico. His career progression reflects a strong track record of delivering results and building high-performing teams.

#### **Civic and Industry Involvement**

Castro is deeply committed to community engagement, supplier diversity, and industry advancement. He recently completed a six-year term on the Board of Directors for the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), where he also served as Corporate Secretary and Chair of the Governance Committee. He now serves on the National Board of the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) and is an active member of the United Way Tocqueville Society.

His previous community service includes serving on the Dallas County Regional Board of Directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters and volunteering with the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center and as a YMCA Adventure Guides Leader.

Castro is also engaged in several professional and leadership organizations. He is a member of the Texas Health Resources Leadership Council, the Irving Economic Development Council, and participates in industry forums including the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) National Accounts Committee and the Gulf Coast Power Association.

#### **Education**

He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from St. Mary's University.

## **SEPTEMBER 2025 OHIO CHAMBER NEW BOARD MEMBERS**



**DR. STAN BOVID  
HIGHCOM**

Dr. Stan Bovid is the Director of Engineering Development at HighCom Armor in Columbus, OH, where he leads the design and advancement of next-generation armor products to meet the protection needs of U.S. defense and law enforcement.

He holds degrees in mechanical engineering and materials science from Michigan State University, North Carolina State University, and The Ohio State University, with a research focus on the dynamic behavior of materials.

Dr. Bovid's career spans automotive, aerospace, academia, civil service, small business, and Fortune 500 industries. His work has centered on developing multi-disciplinary solutions that integrate high-power lasers, advanced electronics, material modeling and simulation, robotic automation, and software for manufacturing and field applications.

In addition to his technical expertise, he is an experienced project manager and engineering leader, with two decades of delivering innovative, collaborative solutions for the Department of Defense and the manufacturing sector. At HighCom Armor, he applies this breadth of knowledge to guide the team in creating some of the lightest, strongest, and most reliable armor available.



**DR. SUSAN S. HASSELER**  
**MUSKINGUM UNIVERSITY**

President Susan Schneider Hasseler is a dynamic leader, educator, and entrepreneur dedicated to harnessing the transformative power of strategic, high-impact education for individuals and communities. Under her leadership, Muskingum University is advancing bold strategic initiatives that strengthen its role as a vital economic driver for the region and position the university for lasting impact well into the future.

Prior to coming to Muskingum in Summer 2016, Dr. Hasseler held academic leadership roles at Augustana University, Messiah University, Calvin University, and Michigan State University. She earned her Ph.D. from Northwestern University, an M.A. from the University of South Dakota, and a B.S. from Calvin University, and is a graduate of several prestigious higher education leadership programs.

An active community member, Dr. Hasseler serves on numerous national and regional boards and advisory committees, including the boards of the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges, Genesis Healthcare System, and Park National Bank-East Region. Dr. Hasseler and her husband, Ken, share a love for the arts, travel, and spending time with their adult children, three grandsons, and two red labs.



**MATT RIEHL**  
**JUMPSTART INC.**

Matt Riehl is the Head of Government Relations at JumpStart Inc., a leading venture capital and entrepreneurial service organization with \$240M+ assets under management. He has dedicated his career to advocacy, government service, and business.

As the Head of Government Relations, Matt works with elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels to drive policy outcomes that are favorable for JumpStart, Ohio's early-stage startups, entrepreneurs, and the tech ecosystem. He is a member of the Public Policy Committee of the Angel Capital Association.

Prior to joining JumpStart, Matt was the Director of Government Affairs at Arconic Corporation (formerly Alcoa Inc.). Matt led government relations across 20+ states, Congress, Canada and Mexico, and was treasurer of the Arconic Political Action Committee. Matt was Chairman of the Aluminum Association Political Action Committee and served on their Government Relations Committee.

Matt began his career as the campaign manager for Congressman Steve LaTourette and had his own consulting company. In addition to his work at JumpStart, Matt is a long-time member of Stow City Council. Matt was first elected at age 24, becoming the youngest elected official in Stow's history.

Throughout his tenure on City Council, Matt has held all leadership positions and has chaired all major committees.

Matt is an active volunteer. He can be heard weekly on the Cleveland Sight Center Radio Network, where he reads news articles to the blind and visually impaired. Matt is a proud member of the Ohio Association of Commodores, the FBI Cleveland Citizens Academy Alumni Association, and is a Kentucky Colonel.

Matt earned Juris Doctorate and Master of Business Administration degrees from Case Western Reserve University and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Kent State University.



**SUE A. ROUDEBUSH**  
**TAFT LAW**

Sue practices employment law focusing on workers' compensation and OSHA law and procedure. She represents self-insured and state-funded employers during all stages of their workers' compensation matters, including claims investigation and management, administrative hearings, litigation, appeals on mandamus before the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Ohio, and settlement. In addition to several years in private practice, Sue worked as an Assistant Ohio Attorney General in the Workers' Compensation Section. Sue regularly writes and presents on workers' compensation and OSHA topics. Her programs are presented at safety council meetings, continuing education seminars, and internal client education and training events.



**SCOTT SCHWEITZER**  
**THE STRATEGY GROUP COMPANY**

Scott Schweitzer began his career in political storytelling in 2000 at The Strategy Group Company. Over the years, Scott has worked across every stage of the advertising process and at every level of politics. Including having served as Co-Chair of Vivek Ramaswamy's Super PAC.

Today, he serves as the Chief Operations Officer as well as providing campaign strategy to statewide officeholders, members of Congress, legislative caucuses, ballot initiatives, and third-party organizations.

Before joining The Strategy Group Company, Scott worked in Washington, D.C., focusing on grassroots lobbying and public policy. Upon returning to Ohio, he served as Executive Director of a successful issue advocacy organization, managed numerous political campaigns, and worked at the Ohio State House of Representatives.

In 2011, Campaigns & Elections magazine recognized Scott as “Rising Star.”

Scott holds a degree in Political Science from Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Outside of politics, Scott and his wife own Olentangy River Brewing Company, a craft brewery and non-profit coffee house. Scott enjoys architecture photography, playing the drums, as well as traveling with his wife and three daughters.



**JESSE STYLES**  
**NORTHSTAR TOWERS**

Jesse Styles founded Northstar Towers in 2016 and the company has grown to a regional developer for multiple customers across several states.

Prior to that Jesse founded a full service site acquisition company in 2006 which now operates as Northstar Towers Services. Customers included virtually all major carriers, tower companies and fiber operators across nearly 20 years. Previously he held positions at AT&T Wireless, American Tower, T-Mobile, Nextel and Cricket across the country early in his career. Before wireless he managed political campaigns and did professional staff work in the Ohio Statehouse.

Jesse Styles is a graduate of Cleveland State University and a member of various civic boards and industry organizations.



**CONRAD WINKLER**  
**NORTH STAR BLUESCOPE STEEL**

Conrad is President of North Star BlueScope Steel since 2022. Prior to joining North Star, he was President and CEO of a diversified steel company, Evraz North America. Conrad was a partner at Booz Allen and Hamilton, served as CEO for Ardagh Glass Packaging, North America. He also founded a Covid-19 testing company, Shield T3. Conrad is an MIT-educated mechanical engineer, with an MBA from Northwestern University. He served in the U.S. Navy as a nuclear submariner aboard fast attack submarines.